(e) The project is likely to be completed after 33 months of the Financial Closure.

Impact of Open Sky Policy on National Carriers

*219. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Open Sky Policy' of allowing private airlines to operate between Indian cities and the destinations abroad has affected the prospects of our National Carriers commercially;

(b) if so, what are the proposals to improve their prospects; and

(c) if not, whether the private airlines will be allowed to operate between far off destinations and also increase their frequencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has permitted Private Domestic Scheduled Operators (PDSOs) to operate only to SAARC countries subject to availability of traffic rights and provision for designation of multiple airlines in the respective Air Services Agreements. This is unlikely to have any adverse impact on the commercial prospects of our national carriers as private airlines can operate only cut of the unutilized Indian entitlements.

Utilisation of ground water

*220. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has examined the indiscriminate exploitation of ground water reserves from aquifers at Plachimada, Palakkad, Kerala and Kaladera, Rajasthan by the multinational soft drink giants.

(b) if so, the details thereof including the action taken against the soft drink plants;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to estimate the extent of utilization of ground water by manufacturers of soft drinks and mineral water and for other purposes;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and category-wise; and